



Preventing Perinatal Hepatitis B

Guidelines for Pediatric Care Providers



From the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) Recommendations, December 2005*
Endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)

HEPATITIS B PROPHYLAXIS AT BIRTH

- Infants born to hepatitis B surface antigen (**HBsAg**) **positive** mothers should receive hepatitis B vaccine and hepatitis B immune globulin (HBIG) within 12 hours of birth.
- Infants born to mothers whose **HBsAg status is unknown** should receive hepatitis B vaccine within 12 hours of birth.
 - Preterm infants weighing <2,000 g (4.4 pounds) should receive HBIG and hepatitis B vaccine within 12 hours of birth.
 - Term infants weighing $\geq 2,000$ g should receive HBIG as soon as possible if the mother is determined to be **HBsAg positive**, but not more than 7 days after birth.
- Medically stable infants weighing $\geq 2,000$ g born to **HBsAg negative** mothers should receive the first dose of hepatitis B vaccine before hospital discharge.
- Preterm infants weighing <2,000 g and born to **HBsAg negative** mothers should receive the first dose of hepatitis B vaccine 1 month after birth.
- Single-antigen hepatitis B vaccine must be used in infants <6 weeks of age.

AFTER THE BIRTH DOSE

- All infants should complete the hepatitis B vaccine series using either single-antigen or combination vaccine, according to the recommended vaccination schedule (see the December 2005 ACIP Recommendations, Tables 3 and 4 for details).*
- Do not administer the last dose in the vaccine series before age 24 weeks (6 months).

POST VACCINE SEROLOGIC TESTING (PVS)

- Test all infants of **HBsAg positive** mothers for both HBsAg and antibody to HBsAg (anti-HBs) 1-2 months after vaccine series completion, but not before 9 months of age. Fax PVS results and immunization record to the Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Unit (213) 351-2781; telephone (213) 351-7400. Note: testing that is delayed after series completion can lead to falsely negative anti-HBs test results.
 - Revaccinate HBsAg-negative infants with anti-HBs levels <10 mIU/mL with a second three-dose series and retest 1-2 months after the last dose of vaccine.
 - HBsAg positive infants should receive appropriate medical follow-up and should be reported to the Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Unit as a perinatal hepatitis B case.

* www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/hepatitis/b/acip.htm